



Office of Councilmember Nora Campos District Five- East San Jose

SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

A Backpack for Every Child at Goss Elementary School



Welcome back to school! I hope you all enjoyed your summer vacations and are ready to tackle the school year. With budgets stretched thin and school supplies being so expensive, I have teamed up with the San Jose Earthquakes to distribute backpacks to all of the students at Goss Elementary School. We collected, purchased and received backpacks from Earthquakes fans, Target, La Kalle radio station (a Univision affiliate) and community members. Together we have ensured that each student at Goss Elementary has the necessary tools for success for this school year.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!



Carmen and Al
Castellano



Crime Continues to Plague Our Neighborhoods



Public safety is one of my top priorities, and I continue to fight to make our neighborhoods across the city safer. Crime in San José spiraled out of control over the weekend of September 6, as there were three separate homicides, all occurring within seven hours, as well as multiple stabbing incidents. I commend our police department for its diligent work and for arresting suspects in each case soon after the incidents occurred.

There have been 26 homicides this year, putting our city on pace to surpass the 33 homicides in 2007, a 10-year record high. I hear the safety concerns of our residents and believe that our City should do more to make our neighborhoods safe once again. I encourage you to take action by participating in a neighborhood association or by hosting a Neighborhood Watch meeting. For more information on Neighborhood Watch, please contact the San José Police Department Community Services Unit at (408) 277-4133 or call my office at (408) 535-4905.



Councilmember Nora Campos • City of San José

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Neighborhood Update: Traffic Calming Improvements



The Mayfair Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Project Area will soon see crosswalk improvements near Cesar Chavez Elementary and Lee Matheson Junior High. The project consists of installing seven textured crosswalks; two at Kammerer Avenue and Oakland Avenue, three at Kammerer Avenue and Sunset Avenue, and two at Kammerer Avenue and Sinclair Drive. The Department of Transportation will be responsible for managing the construction contract and inspection.



The Gateway East Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Project Area will see the installation of a crosswalk with flashing beacons to alert drivers that pedestrians will be crossing on King Road near Plata Arroyo Park. This is an important project that will ensure that pedestrians can cross safely the street. The project is expected to be completed this month. Please remember to drive safely and follow all traffic laws.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Bittner, Department of Transportation, at (408) 975-3205.

One-Year Moratorium on New Fast Food Restaurants

On August 20, Councilmembers Forrest Williams, Kansen Chu and I introduced a proposal to the Rules and Open Government Committee to discuss the impacts of fast food restaurants on our neighborhoods and the health of our youth. The proposal would not have closed any fast food restaurants, rather, the City would be able to discuss and plan for more appropriate locations for **new** fast food restaurants. The Rules and Open Government Committee heard from several health experts and residents in support of the proposal, however, it chose to refer the proposal to two other committees and not to allow the entire City Council to publicly discuss the subject.

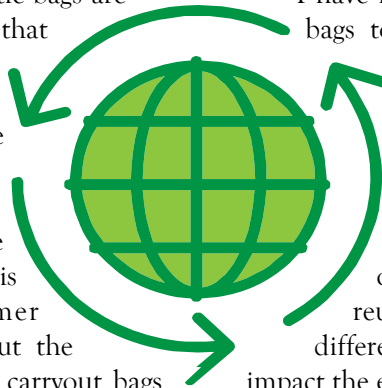
It is important that we build healthy communities that give residents healthy choices. From a planning perspective, we can not allow our neighborhoods to be overrun with multiple fast food restaurants. We should encourage the location of supermarkets and farmer's markets near our schools and neighborhoods to increase the variety of options available to our residents. It is our responsibility as Council Members to actively shape the development of our city.

Land use zoning ordinances are not new to San José. One example of zoning through the use of Conditional Use Permits (CUP) is the granting of alcohol licenses. Though the State is responsible for licensing liquor stores, local governments have the authority to determine appropriate locations through zoning. Historically, communities with lower socio-economic standings have been plagued with an over-concentration of alcohol outlets; the same is true for fast food restaurants. A zoning ordinance is an appropriate tool for the City Council has at its disposal to successfully continue building healthy communities.



Protecting Our Environment and Distributing Reusable Bags

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 500 billion to one trillion plastic bags are used worldwide each year, meaning that one million plastic bags are used every minute. In June, I took on the challenge to help curtail the negative impacts of single-use plastic bags by collaborating with various organizations to raise funding for 3,000 reusable bags. It is important to change consumer behavior and raise awareness about the detrimental impacts that single-use carryout bags have on our environment, while making sure that



we provide our residents with alternative options. I have handed out nearly all of the reusable bags to members of our community and look forward to continuing this effort. The reusable bags are made from 100% recycled cotton that will biodegrade after the life of the bag. We must be proactive in caring for our environment and must all do our part. I encourage you to use reusable bags in order to make a difference in our community and positively impact the environment.



**11th Annual Walk to
End Domestic Violence**
Friday, October 17, 2008

11:00 a.m.

San José City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara St.

For info. (408) 535-8100

Harvest Fair and Exposition

Saturday, October 4, 2008

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Emma Prusch Farm Park
647 S. King Road

For info. (408) 926-5555



VTA Wants Your Input

The Valley Transportation Authority is considering implementing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Corridor. The 4.3-mile corridor extends from San Jose Diridon Station to the Eastridge Transit Center. VTA staff is continuing to meet with stakeholders and community groups to provide updates and solicit input. For more information, contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575 or community.outreach@vta.org.

VTA received funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in April 2008 to initiate a Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) focused on East San José transportation needs. Community feedback is very important to identify transportation needs and potential projects for East San Jose. For more information, contact Jody Littlehales at (408) 321-5769 or jody.littlehales@vta.org.

Back-to-School Safety Tips for Parents or Guardians

1. Instruct your children to always take a friend, walk and ride in well-lit areas and to not take shortcuts.
2. Walk the route to and from school with your children pointing out safe places where they can seek help.
3. Tell your children never to talk to strangers! Remember adults should not be asking children for help, they should be asking an adult.
4. Ensure that your children have current and accurate emergency contact information at their school. Please remember to follow the school district's departure policies.



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**Do you know someone
 who is interested in a
 law enforcement career?**

**The San José Police
 Department is hiring!**
Please visit
www.sjpd.org for more
information.

District Five Neighborhood Groups

Association/Group	Meeting Location	Time	Date
Alum Rock Neighborhood	Joseph George Middle School	7:00 pm	Last Thurs.
Arbuckle /Poco Way NA	Arbuckle Elementary School	6:00 pm	3rd Tues.
CA Fairways HOA	Rancho del Pueblo	6:00 pm	1st. Thurs.
Capitol Goss/ Dobern NA	Capitol Park Neighborhood Center	6:30 pm	2nd Tues.
Cassell NA	Hank Lopez Community Center	6:00 pm	3rd. Weds.
EAST VALLEY/680 NAC	Alum Rock Youth Center	7:00 pm	3rd Thurs.
ESJNA (formerly Dorsa NA)	Dorsa Community Center	6:00 pm	2nd Weds.
GATEWAY EAST NAC	Pal Stadium (inside the TAB office)	6:30 pm	4th Tues.
Lyndale NA	Lyndale Elementary School	6:30 pm	3rd Weds.
Los Sueños HOA	Rancho del Pueblo	6:30 pm	Last Thurs.
MAYFAIR NAC	Mexican Heritage Plaza	6:00 pm	Last Thurs.
Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood	3411 Rocky Mountain Drive	6:30 pm	1 st Weds.
Plata Arroyo NA	Mexican Heritage Plaza	6:30 pm	3rd Weds.
Park Pleasant NA	Mt. Pleasant Elementary School	7:00 pm	3rd Thurs.
San Antonio Unidos NA	Mexican Heritage Plaza	6:00 pm	3rd Mon.
Sierra NA	Alum Rock Youth Center	6:30 pm	3rd Weds.

17th Annual San José Mariachi and Latin Music Festival

September 7– 28, 2008

Please visit the following website for a
 complete schedule of events:

<http://sanjosemariachifestival.com>



Sunday, September 28, 2008

Feria del Mariachi

Plaza de Cesar Chavez
downtown San José

9:00 a.m.—Mariachi Mass

11:00 a.m.—Festival

Admission fee: \$10
(age 13 and up)

Mexican Independence Day

Please join the City of San José, Councilmember Nora Campos and the Consul General of Mexico David Figueroa as we celebrate Mexican Independence Day. A special flag raising ceremony will take place to honor the 198th anniversary of Mexico's freedom from colonial rule and the valuable contributions of Mexican-Americans to our diverse city.

The Mexican Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony will take place on Monday, September, 15, 2008 at 1:20 PM. The Mexican and American flags will be raised at the City Hall Plaza at 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San José, CA.



*If you have any further questions, please contact
 Vanessa Flores at (408) 535-4944.*

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